

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated December 30, 2003, the Examiner states that Claims 1-8 are pending. Claims 1-6 are rejected, and Claims 7 and 8 are objected to. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Liang et al. (US 6,245,148) in view of Raphael (US 5,383,574). The Applicant respectfully considers that the amended claims overcome this rejection.

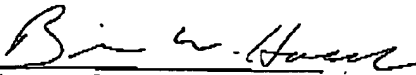
Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that there are two or more sources of supply. Liang et al. discloses a single source of supply and a single middle tank. Raphael discloses two sources of supply and a single middle tank. The present invention as claimed differs from these teachings in that there are two (or more) sources of supply, and each source of supply has a middle tank.

The Applicant's attorney would like to thank the Examiner for previously taking the time to review this amendment and discuss the amendment in an interview. The Applicant is submitting herewith a RCE as requested by the Examiner so that a further search and consideration may be undertaken.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in better condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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